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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Vol. 27 No. 2 A Monthly Newsletter Published in Cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics February, 1990

Trend Setters

	Nov'89	Dec'89
Wyoming		
Labor Force	224,349	227,431
Employment	211,369	214,105
Unemployment	12,980	13,326
Rate (Raw)	5.8	5.9
Rate (S.A.)	6.2	5.7
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.79	$14.27
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.9	44.4
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.3	5.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.12	$13.28
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.5	43.7
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	125.9	126.1
Year Change(U.S.)	+4.7	+4.6

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

U.S. Unemployment Continues at 5.3 percent

For the seventh consecutive month national unemployment registered 5.3 percent, seasonally adjusted. The year ago rate was also 5.3 percent. The December rate represents 6.7 million jobseekers across the nation and, like the jobless rate, has shown very little month-to-month variation during 1989.

Jobless rates for individual workers groups were adult men (4.6 percent), adult women (4.8 percent), teenagers (15.2 percent), whites (4.6 percent), blacks (11.8 percent), and hispanics (8.5 percent). These rates also showed little or no change, both over the month and the year.

Payrolls Up in U.S. Service Industries

National nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the establishment survey, gained 2.4 million workers over the year in December. Virtually all this growth took place in the service-producing sector. While construction and mining were up slightly, 134,000 workers, manufacturing payrolls continued to slide, down 104,000 workers from last year after seasonal adjustment.

In the service-producing sector, service was up annually by 1.2 million workers, trade was up 571,000, government was up 337,000, and finance, insurance, and real estate along with transportation and utilities were up 325,000.

The total number of employed workers in the U.S. in December was 117.9 million, seasonally adjusted, up annually 1.7 million workers or 1.5 percent.

Wyoming's Unemployed Drops to 5.7 Percent

Statewide December seasonally adjusted unemployment fell one-half percentage point from the November rate of 6.2 percent, and over a full percent from last year. The comparable U.S. rate in December was 5.3 percent.

Unadjusted, the December rate of 5.9 percent was about the same as the November rate of 5.8 percent. The year ago rate stood at 7.0 percent.

Historically, unadjusted unemployment and its rate generally go up sharply in December, due mainly to weather related layoffs. The unseasonably late year warm weather appears to have delayed this and given the state's economy a major boost in the last month of the year.

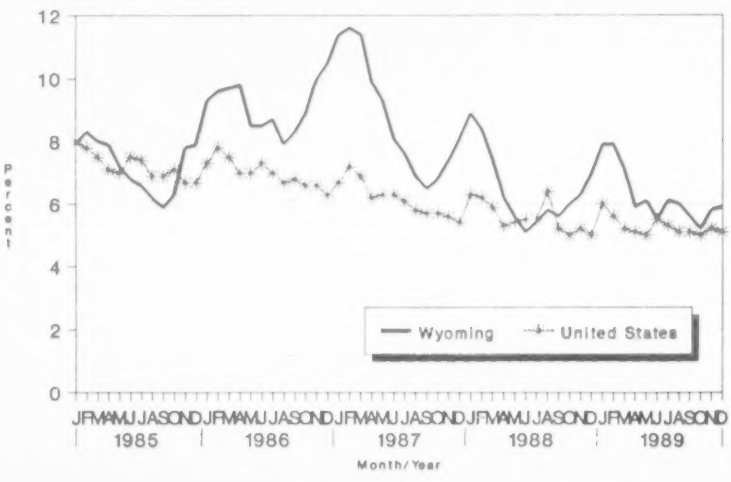
State Worker Count Up in December

The same lack of snow and cold that kept unemployment from jumping in December, also kept the state's worker count from dropping from November, as it usually does. The December total employment count, at 214,100, was up from the November count of 211,400 and down less than one percent from the year ago count of 215,600. The December unemployment count, at 13,300, was down almost 2,900 from the year ago count of 16,200.

Trade and Services Up Sharply in the State

Wyoming continued, in December, its 1989 trend of generally following the growth pattern of the national

Unemployment Rate, Wyoming and the U.S.
Civilian Unadjusted
1985 - 1989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1989
Month/Year

economy. Annual employment growth, as measured by the nonagricultural establishment survey, in the Cowboy state was largely confined to services, retail trade, transportation, and local and federal government. The growth in retail trade and services was substantial. All sectors of retail trade were up while the growth in services was largely confined to hotels and lodging places. Manufacturing and wholesale trade were also up slightly over the year.

Mining, construction, state government, and finance, insurance, and real estate were all around or below year ago levels.

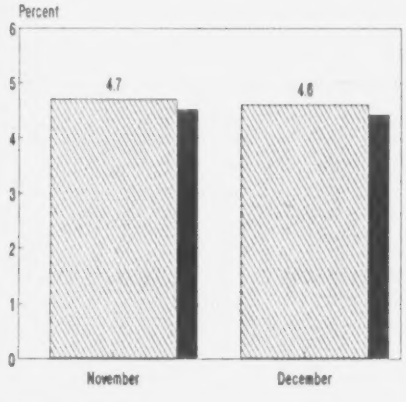
County Unemployment Trends

The lowest unemployment in Wyoming was again in Teton County, at 3.4 percent. Albany County followed at 4.0 percent. Lincoln and Fremont counties registered the highest jobless rate at 8.4 and 7.9 percent.

Teton and Park Register Highest Labor Force Growth

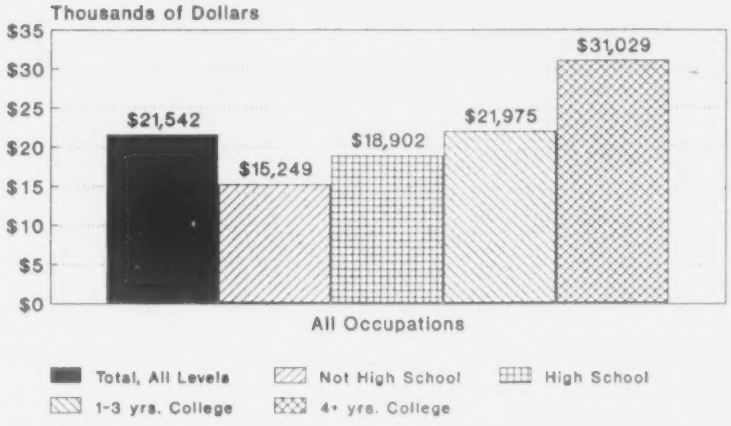
It appears the winter tourist season is alive and well in the northwest corner of the state. The Cody and Jackson Hole area labor force count was up over 1,700 from a year ago. While no data is available yet, it is likely that the December Yellowstone Park gate count is continuing up over the year as it was last summer.

Consumer Price Index
Annual Percent Change
All Urban



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Median Annual Earnings
by Level of Education, 1987



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

U.S. Occupational Outlook 2000

The total number of jobs is projected to increase by 18 million, or 15 percent, from 1988 to 2000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics moderate-growth scenario for the U.S. economy. Changes in the industrial composition of employment will have a major impact on the occupational structure, as will changes in technology, business practices, and other factors. Employment opportunities will be found across the entire spectrum of occupations in our economy. However, workers having the most education and training are in a better position to obtain jobs that, on average, are higher paying.

Fastest growing occupations. Reflecting the very rapid growth of the health services industries, half of the 20 occupations with the fastest projected growth rates are health service occupations. The health-related occupation projected to grow most rapidly over the 1988-2000 period is medical assistants (70 percent). The next fastest growing occupation, home health aides, will be in great demand to serve the needs of the increasing population who are aged and ill but live at home. Other health occupations with rapid growth include: radiologic technicians and technologists, medical secretaries, physical therapists, surgical technicians, physical and corrective therapy assistants and aides, and occupational therapists.

Rapid growth also is projected for occupations related to the continuing spread of computer technology. The number of data processing equipment repairers should increase rapidly to maintain the growing stock of computer and related equipment. Rapid growth of operations research analysts also is expected. These workers perform data analysis of the operations of manufacturing and other business organizations in order to improve efficiency. Their work often leads to changes in an organization's data processing methods. Computer systems analysts and computer programmers will be needed to improve methods of satisfying the expanding data processing needs of organizations.

Among other occupations with rapid employment growth, paralegals, the occupation with fastest projected increase, is expected to benefit from the rapid growth of the legal service industry as well as increasing use of paralegals within the industry. Other growth occupations include secretaries and financial services sale representatives, travel agents, and social welfare service aides.

Rapidly declining occupations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects many occupations to decline between 1988 and 2000. The occupation with the largest decline for all industries is all other assemblers and fabricators (-116,400 jobs). Farm workers are expected to decline by 98,200 for the projection period. Other occupational decliners include: electrical and electronic assemblers; sewing machine operators, garment; hand packers and packagers; and electrical and electronic assemblers, precision.

U.S. Fastest Growing Occupations, 1988-2000
Moderate Alternative Projection

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation	Employment 1988	Employment 2000	Numerical change	Percent change
Paralegals	83	145	62	75.3
Medical Assistants	149	253	104	70.0
Home Health Aides	236	397	160	67.9
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	132	218	87	66.0
Data Processing Equipment Repairers	71	115	44	61.2
Medical Records Technicians	47	75	28	59.9
Medical Secretaries	207	327	120	58.0
Physical Therapists	68	107	39	57.0
Surgical Technologists	35	55	20	56.4
Operations Research Analysts	55	85	30	55.4
Securities & Financial Services Sales Workers	200	309	109	54.8
Travel Agents	142	219	77	54.1
Computer Systems Analysts	403	617	214	53.3
Physical & Corrective Therapy Assistants	39	60	21	52.5
Social Welfare Service Aides	91	138	47	51.5
Occupational Therapists	33	48	16	48.8
Computer Programmers	519	769	250	48.1
Human Services Workers	118	171	53	44.9
Respiratory Therapists	56	79	23	41.3
Correction Officers & Jailers	186	262	76	40.8

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

NATRONA, WYOMING

Natrona County's 1987 population of 66,600 ranked second in the state.

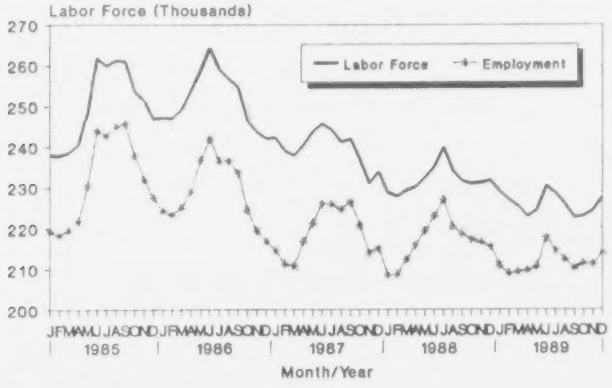
PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - In 1987, Natrona County had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $14,135. This PCPI ranked second in the state, and was 111 percent of the state average ($12,706) and 91 percent of the national average ($15,484). In 1977, Natrona's PCPI of $9,667 ranked third in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 3.9 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.0 percent and for the nation was 7.8 percent.

NIOBRARA, WYOMING

Niobrara County's 1987 population of 3,000 ranked 23rd in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - In 1987, Niobrara County had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,678. This PCPI ranked eighth in the state, and was 100 percent of the state average and 82 percent of the national average. In 1977, Niobrara's PCPI of $6,343 ranked 18th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 7.2 percent.

Wyoming Labor Force and Employment
1985 - 1989



Scale does not begin at zero.
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, BLS and Research & Analysis.

Consumer Price Index

(1982-1984 = 100)
All Urban

	Dec. 1989	Annual % change
All Items	126.1	4.6
Food & Beverage	127.2	5.5
Housing	124.9	3.9
Entertainment	129.1	5.1
Apparel & Upkeep	119.2	1.0
Transportation	115.2	4.0
Medical	154.4	8.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Table 1

ITEM	DEC 1989 [1]	NOV 1989 [1]	DEC 1988 [2]	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year A
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	227,431	224,349	231,810	1.4	-1.9
Unemployment	13,326	12,980	16,188	2.7	-17.7
Employed Labor Force	214,105	211,369	215,622	1.3	-0.7
Agriculture	10,781	11,381	9,885	-5.3	9.1
Covered Employment (Under WY UI Law) [3]	176,100 [3]	177,200 [3]	172,011	-0.6	2.4
Total Unemployment Rate (WY) Seasonally Adjusted*	5.9% 5.7%*	5.8% 6.2%*	7.0% 6.8%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seasonally Adjusted*	5.1% 5.3%*	5.2% 5.3%*	5.0% 5.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (WY)	2.0%	1.5%	2.5%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS [4]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 633.59	$ 619.17	$ 635.90	2.3	-0.4
Average Weekly Hours	44.4	44.9	43.2	-1.1	2.8
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.27	$ 13.79	$ 14.72	3.5	-3.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Office	17,319	13,839	20,957	25.1	-17.4
Initial	3,374	2,880	3,569	17.2	-5.5
Weeks Compensated	12,014	9,006	14,723	33.4	-18.4
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,849,024	$ 1,372,406	$ 2,286,506	34.7	-19.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 153.49	$ 152.21	$ 154.52	0.8	-0.7
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES					
Total Applications Received During Month	3,218	3,976	3,832	-19.1	-16.0
Total Openings Received	2,327	2,433	4,938	-4.4	-52.9
Individual Placements	986	1,338	1,533	-26.3	-35.7
Placement Transactions	1,684	2,144	2,115	-21.5	-20.4
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS [4]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 580.34	$ 570.72	$ 557.68	1.7	4.1
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	43.5	42.8	0.5	2.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.28	$ 13.12	$ 13.03	1.2	1.9
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84=100	126.1	125.9	120.5	0.2	4.6
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84=100	113.0	112.7	109.0	0.3	3.7
Food and Beverage 1982-84=100	127.2	126.7	120.6	0.4	5.5

1 Preliminary. 2 Revised. 3 Not benchmarked to current population survey. 4 Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 5 Estimate based on historical trends.

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

Table 2 (Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
COUNTY	DEC 1989	NOV 1989	DEC 1988	% CHANGE NOV-DEC	% CHANGE DEC-DEC	DEC 1989	NOV 1989	DEC 1988	DEC 1989	NOV 1989	DEC 1988
Statewide	227,431	224,349	231,810	1.4	-1.9	13,326	12,980	16,188	5.9 %	5.8 %	7.0 %
Statewide - Seasonally Adjusted									5.7 *	6.2 *	6.8 *
Albany	14,540	14,342	15,036	1.4	-3.3	580	551	661	4.0	3.8	4.4
Big Horn	5,462	5,463	5,026	0.0	8.7	369	325	361	6.8	5.9	7.2
Campbell	14,552	14,462	14,963	0.6	-2.7	988	1,020	1,076	6.8	7.1	7.2
Carbon	6,976	6,864	7,078	1.6	-1.4	424	406	631	6.1	5.9	8.9
Converse	5,894	6,074	5,865	-3.0	0.5	433	396	465	7.3	6.5	7.9
Crook	2,568	2,602	2,772	-1.3	-7.4	197	180	180	7.7	6.9	6.5
Fremont	16,124	16,442	16,368	-1.9	-1.5	1,275	1,295	1,627	7.9	7.9	9.9
Goshen	5,629	5,710	6,035	-1.4	-6.7	287	305	335	5.1	5.3	5.6
Hot Springs	2,764	2,692	2,871	2.7	-3.7	113	87	181	4.1	3.2	6.3
Johnson	3,332	3,336	3,354	-0.1	-0.7	202	174	211	6.1	5.2	6.3
Laramie	34,771	34,240	36,493	1.6	-4.7	1,937	1,935	2,081	5.6	5.7	5.7
Lincoln	4,981	5,020	5,569	-0.8	-10.6	416	354	575	8.4	7.1	10.3
Natrona	29,826	29,430	31,302	1.3	-4.7	1,839	1,917	2,222	6.2	6.5	7.1
Niobrara	997	1,017	1,233	-2.0	-19.1	59	70	99	5.9	6.9	8.0
Park	13,586	12,943	12,845	5.0	5.8	774	644	726	5.7	5.0	5.7
Platte	4,809	4,717	4,510	2.0	6.6	288	265	392	6.0	5.6	8.7
Sheridan	13,667	13,379	12,993	2.2	5.2	747	700	768	5.5	5.2	5.9
Sublette	2,454	2,404	2,547	2.1	-3.7	113	81	192	4.6	3.4	7.5
Sweetwater	18,069	18,033	18,655	0.2	-3.1	990	988	1,569	5.5	5.5	8.4
Teton	10,190	8,981	9,116	13.5	11.8	343	354	374	3.4	3.9	4.1
Uinta	8,783	8,741	9,293	0.5	-5.5	556	578	903	6.3	6.6	9.7
Washakie	4,079	4,093	4,347	-0.3	-6.2	190	201	278	4.7	4.9	6.4
Weston	3,377	3,365	3,540	0.4	-4.6	207	157	280	6.1	4.7	7.9
United States									5.1	5.2	5.0
United States - Seasonally Adjusted									5.3 *	5.3 *	5.3 *

The ESC wishes to state that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month and revised again in about a year. The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the 1988 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	DEC 1989 [2] Total	NOV 1989 [3] Total	DEC 1988 Total	NOV 1989 to DEC 1989	DEC 1988 to DEC 1989
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	191.2	191.9	187.0	-0.4 %	2.3 %
Manufacturing	9.6	9.6	9.4	0.0	2.1
Durable Goods	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Nondurable Goods	5.5	5.5	5.4	0.0	1.9
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	181.6	182.3	177.6	-0.4	2.3
Mining	18.4	18.4	18.7	0.0	-1.6
Contract Construction	9.5	10.5	9.4	-9.5	1.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.7	14.7	13.9	0.0	5.8
Railroad Transportation	2.7	2.7	2.0	0.0	35.0
Transportation except Railroads	6.2	6.2	6.1	0.0	1.6
Communications, Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	42.9	42.6	41.6	0.7	3.1
Wholesale Trade	7.0	7.0	6.8	0.0	2.9
Retail Trade	35.9	35.6	34.8	0.8	3.2
Food Stores	5.5	5.5	5.2	0.0	5.8
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	5.9	5.9	5.6	0.0	5.4
Eating & Drinking Places	12.9	12.6	12.7	2.4	1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.1	7.1	7.2	0.0	-1.4
Services	33.3	33.2	32.2	0.3	3.4
Personal Services	1.8	1.9	1.8	-5.3	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.1	7.0	6.9	1.4	2.9
Government	55.7	55.8	54.6	-0.2	2.0
Federal Government	8.6	8.6	8.1	0.0	6.2
State & Local Government	47.1	47.2	46.5	-0.2	1.3
State Government	13.8	13.8	14.0	0.0	-1.4
Local Government	33.3	33.4	32.5	-0.3	2.5

See footnotes at end of table

NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3 (Continued)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS DEC 1989 [2] Total	NOV 1989 [3] Total	DEC 1989 Total	% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP. NOV 1989 to DEC 1989	DEC 1988 to DEC 1989
CASPER (Natrona County)					
Total Non-Farm Wage and Salary Employment	27.9	28.0	27.4	-0.4 %	1.8 %
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	26.4	26.5	26.0	-0.4	1.5
Mining	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.6	1.7	1.5	-5.9	6.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.0	8.0	7.8	0.0	2.6
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Retail Trade	5.8	5.8	5.7	0.0	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services	5.8	5.8	5.7	0.0	1.8
Government	4.9	4.9	5.0	0.0	-2.0
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	4.2	4.2	4.3	0.0	-2.3
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
Total Non-Farm Wage and Salary Employment	31.2	31.2	30.2	0.0	3.3
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.9	29.9	28.9	0.0	3.5
Contract Construction	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.1	10.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.2	7.1	6.9	1.4	4.4
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.4	6.3	6.1	1.6	4.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.0	11.1
Services	5.8	5.8	5.5	0.0	5.5
Government	10.0	10.1	10.2	-1.0	-2.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	7.3	7.4	7.5	-1.4	-2.7

1 Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 2 Subject to revision. 3 Revised figures.

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W Y O M I N G

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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ISSN 0512-4409